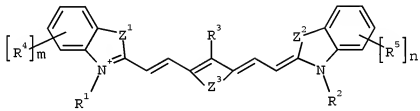
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor comprising (i) a support having a hydrophilic surface or which is provided with a hydrophilic layer and (ii) a coating provided thereon, the coating comprising (a) an oleophilic layer which comprises a polymer that is soluble in an aqueous alkaline developer and (b) an infrared light absorbing compound according to the following formula:



wherein

- m and n each independently represent an integer from 0 to 4;
- Z^1 and Z^2 each independently represent one or two non-metallic atoms, which may be substituted, necessary to complete a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring;
- Z^3 represents two or three non-metallic atoms, which may be substituted, necessary to complete a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic or carbocyclic ring;
- each R^1, R^2, R^4 and R^5 independently represent an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl group, or a group selected from $-G^1$, $-L^1-G^1$, -CN, a halogen, $-NO_2$, $-OR_a$, $-CO-R_a$, $-CO-O-R_a$, $-O-CO-R_d$, $-CO-NR_dR_e$, $-NR_dR_e$, $-NR_d-CO-R_e$, $-NR_d-CO-O-R_a$, $-NR_d-CO-NR_eR_f$, $-SR_d$, $-SO-R_a$, $-SO_2-R_a$, $-SO_2-O-R_a$ and $-SO_2-NR_aR_b$; or wherein two adjacent R^4 and R^5 groups together form an optionally substituted 5- or 6-membered ring which is fused to the ring formed by Z^1 or Z^2;
- R^3 represents a hydrogen or a halogen atom, $-L_2-G^2$, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an aralkyl group, an aryl group, a thioalkyl group or a thioaryl group, each of said groups being optionally substituted;

with

- L_1 and L_2 being a divalent linking group;
- R_a, R_b and R_c being an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl group;

– R_d, R_e, and R_f being hydrogen or an optionally substituted alkyl, alkenyl, aryl or aralkyl group;

wherein the solubilizing groups G^1 and G^2 are anionic or become anionic in an aqueous alkaline solution having a pH of at least 9 and,

wherein the infrared light absorbing compound comprises three, four or five of the solubilizing groups G^1 or G^2.

2. (Original) A printing plate precursor according to claim 1 wherein R^3 comprises at least one of said solubilizing groups.

3. (Original) A printing plate precursor according to claim 1 wherein R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 each comprise one of said solubilizing groups.

4. (Original) A printing plate precursor according to claim 1 wherein the IR light absorbing compound comprises three solubilizing groups, of which one is comprised in each of R^1, R^2 and R^3.

5. (Original) A printing plate precursor according to claim 1 wherein the IR light absorbing compound comprises three solubilizing groups, of which one is comprised in each of R^3, R^4 and R^5.

6. (Original) A printing plate precursor according to claim 1 wherein the IR light absorbing compound comprises four solubilizing groups, of which one is comprised in each of R^1, R^2, R^4 and R^5.

7. (Original) A printing plate precursor according to claim 1 wherein Z^1 and Z^2 are —$C(CH_3)_2$—.

8. (Original) A printing plate precursor according to claim 1 wherein Z^3 is –$(CH_2)_2$- or –$(CH_2)_3$—.

9. (Original) A printing plate precursor according to claim 1 wherein R^3 is –Cl or optionally substituted –S-C_6H_5.

10. (Previously Presented) A printing plate precursor according to claim 1 wherein the solubilizing group is a carboxy group, a sulfo group, a hydroxy group, or salts thereof.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.